(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that less investment is required for these two lines;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct a survey for these railway lines;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Constraint of resources.

SC/ST Employees in Doordarshan/AIR, Madhya Pradesh

4016. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe working in the Doordarshan/AIR Kendras, category-wise and kendra-wise;

(b) whether the reservation policy is not being implemented in these kendras;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of posts lying vacant, category-wise and the time by which these are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Introduction of Express Train

4017. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to Introduce Express train from Bhubaneswar/Puri to Delhi via Berhampur-Vizianagaram-Rayagada; and

(b) if so, the time by which the train is likely to introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

STD/ISD in Tamil Nadu

4018. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for setting up of PCO's have STD/ISD facilities pending clearance in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the time by which the applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Number of applications for STD PCOs pending in Tamil Nadu are 6829.

(b) These applications will be processed by 31st March, 1997. The PCOs will be provided during the next financial year i.e. 1997-98.

Telephone Connections Provided in Andhra Pradesh

4019. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections provided in Andhra Pradesh during the last six months, District-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections disconnected in the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh, District-wise;

(c) the details and resons of disconnections;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide/ install tower type telephone connections in A.P. particularly in Guntur District; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 56,366 telephone connections were provided during the last six months (June to November'96). District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c). 831 telephone connections were disconnected in the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh. District-wise details and reasons for disconnections are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) In Andhra Pradesh 8,488 nos. of village public telephones using MARR (towr type) were provided up to 30.11.96. In Guntur district there are 1019 villages, out of which 400 nos. have been provided with tower type telephones and the remaining 619 villages have been provided telephone connections on other media.